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Gator Gazette

917th WING, AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

BARKSDALE AFB, LA

Gaining the Competitive Edge

*Security Forces members compete
in "Challenge" exercise*





U.S. AIR FORCE

Gator Gazette

917th Wing Public Affairs
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Front Cover:

Senior Airman Malbon Heath, 917th Security Forces Squadron fire team member, strikes a pose during the 917th Security Forces Challenge held Sept. 6. (See related story, p. 5.)

From the Top

October proves to be a busy month for the Wing. The annual fitness walk, Mission Support Group Bivouac and preparation for the early 2005 Operational Readiness Inspection will keep us mission ready.

We begin this month by training our Exercise Evaluation Team, followed by an Employment Exercise in November. Many preparatory exercises are scheduled over the next year for the ORI. A detailed schedule of events can be found on page 8.

Exercises like these allow members of the 917th Wing to show what they are really made of, and I am certain all outcomes will be positive ones.

On a much lighter note, Gatorfest, the annual maintenance awards banquet, is scheduled for Saturday evening of the Unit Training Assembly. Come out and support our maintenance folks at the Horseshoe Riverdome as they receive well deserved recognition for their accomplishments over the last year.

Upcoming challenges will also include several Air and Space Expeditionary Forces taskings throughout the Wing. Let's all be ready to step up to the plate to complete the mission and once again prove that our Wing is truly the best there is.



Col. Kevin Wolfe
917th Mission Support Group Commander

Air Force looks to members for input in Climate Survey

By Tech. Sgt. Ruben Delgado
Wing Public Affairs

Now is the time to anonymously provide valuable feedback and new ideas to Air Force leaders at all levels of management. From Oct. 1 until Nov. 23, Air Force reservists will have an opportunity to speak to the entire chain of command from their unit commander up through the Air Force Chief of Staff.

Members are strongly encouraged to log on to the Air Force Climate Survey Web site: <https://afclimatesurvey.af.mil> to complete the survey, which should take approximately 30-45 minutes and may be done on either a govern-

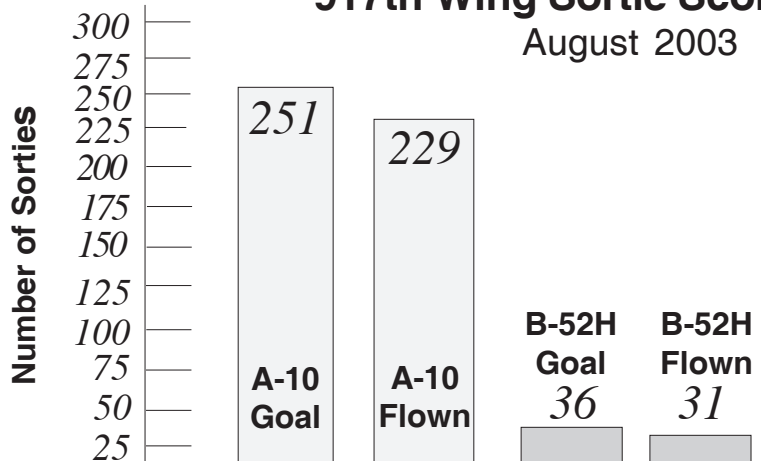
ment or non-government computer. Participants may stop the survey at any time and re-enter where they left off by using their survey ID and password created at the beginning of the process.

Areas of interest include topics like leadership, unit performance outcomes, supervision, general satisfaction, teamwork, training and development, the job, resources, participation and involvement, unit flexibility, core values, job enhancement and recognition.

(Information for this article was obtained from the Public Affairs Marketing Plan.)

917th Wing Sortie Scoreboard

August 2003



A-10 Mission Capable Rate 80.6%
B-52H Mission Capable Rate 61.7%

AFRC Goal 75%
AFRC Goal 65%

Morale key in hostile environment

Command chief there for troops halfway around the globe

By Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant
Wing Public Affairs

The moment is solemn, silence fills the air. All that is heard is the faint sound of tapping shoes as six honor guard pallbearers carry the lifeless body of a 20-year-old forward artillery observer, killed in action in Iraq, to a C-130 heading for a special memorial service in his honor.

As one of the six, his walk to the plane seems never ending. The silence of the moment nearly overwhelms him, Skaggs said, as he describes what has been one of the "most moving experiences I have had here (in Iraq) so far. He was just way too young to leave our midst."

In spite of unexpected tragedies like this one, Chief Master Sgt. Jack Skaggs, 917th Wing command chief and acting command chief for the 506th Air Expeditionary Group, Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, remains optimistic about his mission in the desert.

"Everyday, the men and women here put their lives on the line for their country," Skaggs said. "If they aren't busy enough with their own jobs, they pitch in to help others make the base as secure as possible. They build barriers, fill sandbags and report suspicious activities - whatever it takes to get the job done. This is what I call teamwork!"

"It's like Groundhog Day here...every day seems the same," he said. "Just as at home, my job here is to connect the dots of morale and piece together projects that include our Army counterparts, so that we work as one cohesive team."

"I get up at 6 a.m., and go to bed anywhere from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.," Skaggs said. "I visit the troops in various areas of responsibility, like Security Forces around the perimeter or those working in the dining facility or picking up trash. Everyone pitches in."

Skaggs volunteered for this duty in Iraq. He said he did so because he felt it was the right thing to do.

"I joined the military to serve my country," he said. "There's no better place right now to serve the country than in Iraq. Seeing the smiles on the faces of the children because they are free from Saddam's power is enough to make this assignment worthwhile."

"We ask our folks to step up," he said. "I felt since I am in a leadership capacity, I also needed to do my part."

Conditions in Iraq, according to Skaggs, are not great, but bearable.

"We put a lot of effort into building the morale here," said Skaggs. "We hold nightly activities to help people cope with being away from families, but sometimes it's not enough. We all miss the conveniences of going to the grocery stores or seeing a



A troop accepts a lollipop from Chief Master Sgt. Jack Skaggs, 917th Wing command chief, who is currently deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Charlein Sheets)

ballgame. That's where the outstanding support from home comes in. Every e-mail we receive or package or card in the mail brightens our day. Keep the thoughts and prayers coming."

"We have the basic needs," he said. "We work constantly, so we don't worry about the little things. We predominately concentrate on our task at hand. There is very little television news, so we are secluded from the worldly stuff. We do have an FM

station, so we pick up a little news from back home like the power outage along the East Coast. No sympathy on that. It happens to us all the time. Ha!"

"We do have a gym, so I try to workout every evening," Skaggs said. "The gym is a great place to come along with so many of our troops. It is an extremely well-used facility. The air conditioning rarely works, so there is a whole lot of sweating going on...great place to lose weight."

With every good deed comes sacrifice. For Skaggs, it has meant missing birthdays and anniversaries among other significant family events.

"I missed my wife's, mother-in-law's and General Ihle's birthday," he said. "I'll enjoy my 55th birthday here, my parents will celebrate their 61st anniversary without me and my daughter, Jill, will have her 19th birthday without Daddy. I hope to be home to celebrate Christmas with my family and friends."

"I continue to pray for every one of the young folks over here," Skaggs said. "They're tough, but they need your prayers. This isn't the safest place on the planet, but it is getting better. We are here to help this nation get on its feet after years of abuse by its so-called leaders. Our goal...is to leave it better than we found it."

Editor's note: You may e-mail Chief Master Sgt. Jack Skaggs at Jack.Skaggs@KRAB.AORCENTAF.AF.MIL.

“
**Our goal is
to leave
it (Iraq)
better
than
we found
it.**

”
*Chief Master Sgt.
Jack Skaggs*

Commander hosts awards banquet

**By Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant
Wing Public Affairs**

The 93rd Bomb Squadron Awards Banquet, hosted by Brig. Gen. Jack Ihle, 917th Wing commander, took place at the Barksdale Enlisted Club Sept. 5.

Over 200 awards were presented to air and ground crew(s). The awards given were to honor the heroic efforts of those who deployed in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

"Over the past two years, our people have made great sacrifices to honor their commitment to the Air Force," said Lt. Col. Steve Kirkpatrick, 93 BS commander. "Without the support of the 917th Wing, our employers and most importantly our families, we could not have successfully completed what we were tasked to do."

"These real-world deployments in support of OEF and OIF were the first for the 93rd Bomb Squadron since its reactivation in 1993," said Ihle. "The men and women of the 93rd took on the task they were given and performed flawlessly, something we at the 917th are extremely proud of."

After the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, members of the 93 BS

were quickly called to duty by the President of the United States to support retaliation efforts against the Al Qaeda terrorist network.

From September 2001 to January 2002, the 93 BS flew 88 combat missions for a total of 1,229 flying hours, dropping over 3,000 bombs.

They heeded the call to duty once again in May 2002 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, deploying with active-duty forces to make up the 40th Aerospace Expeditionary Forces.

In March 2003, the call came to support a regime change in Iraq, and the 93 BS took on the task without hesitation, deploying B-52s and personnel to RAF Fairford, UK, Anderson AFB, Guam and Diego Garcia. While there, they dropped over one million pounds of munitions.

Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, Eighth Air Force commander, thanked the members of the 93 BS by saying, "Remember those who went before you, and know that your names are now part of the legacy of this great squadron."

This event recognizes a new generation of heroes in the proud combat history of the Screamin' Indians."



Maj. Chris Myers, 93rd Bomb Squadron B-52 electronic warfare officer, Maj. Steve Youssi, 917th Operations Group B-52 electronic warfare officer, and Maj. Paul Harper, 917th Operations Support Flight weapons and tactics officer, await the reading of their award(s) by Maj. Joe Jones, 93 BS B-52 flight commander (at podium). (Photo by Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant)



**Walker
takes
final
flight,
Eckfeld
assumes
command**



Left: Lt. Col. Greg Eckfeld (left), who assumed command of the 47th Fighter Squadron Sept. 7, waters down Col. Ed Walker, outgoing commander, after Walker's final flight Sept. 16. Walker leaves the 47 FS to assume command of the 926th Fighter Wing, New Orleans Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, La. Top right: Eckfeld accepts the squadron guidon during the 47 FS change of command ceremony. (Photos by Tech. Sgt. Gerry Currington)

Security Forces members promote teamwork and problem solving during "Challenge"



GAINING THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

**By Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant
Wing Public Affairs**

Feats of physical fitness were only part of the 917th Wing's "Security Forces Challenge" earlier this month—unit members agree the competition helped bring them together as a team.

The 917 SFS Challenge 2003 took place at the Barksdale Fitness Center track and the Barksdale East Reservation Sept. 6. Its purpose, Challenge leader Master Sgt. Mark Traynham said, was to promote team work and problem solving within the fire teams and increase overall squadron morale.

"This competition was a way to bring our squadron together," Traynham said. "Many times our lower-ranking members use problem solving skills to get through situations they face without the help of a squad leader or supervisor. A competition like this one forces us to look at where we are as a whole, identifying any shortfalls we may have in training."

The challenge consisted of three separate events: a Physical Fitness Test (push-ups, sit-ups, 1 ¼-mile relay), a written skills test on basic knowledge dealing with the Security Forces Air Force Specialty Code, and problem-solving tasks on the land navigation course.

"The challenge consisted of six four-man teams," Traynham said, "with each team member doing 25 push-ups and sit-ups in the least amount of time. Individual team members ran one quarter-mile lap of the 1 ¼-mile relay. On the last lap, one team member simulated an injury, leaving the other three to carry him or her to safety and to seek needed medical attention."

"On the land navigation course, competitors reassembled an M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon, set up a 'hot loop', a connection, using field phones, and did a recon of one of four points without being detected," Traynham said.

"This is my first time participating in an event like this one," said Senior Airman Stephanie Breaux, 917 SFS fire team member. "It takes a lot more effort than you think to do what we've done here. But, if you were in a combat zone and you had to carry someone to safety, you need to know what to do and how

to do it, and we've learned that today."

"The challenge gave our Security Forces members an opportunity to practice some of the skills taught at technical school that we don't get to utilize frequently, but tasks that would be critical if we were called to serve in a hostile environment," said 1st Lt. Brian Ozden, 917th Security Forces Squadron operations officer.

"Maj. Talley and I are very impressed with the hard work and camaraderie the members displayed, especially the sharp technical skills of some of the younger troops and the leadership skills of our NCOs," he said. "Traynham and the other senior NCOs did an extraordinary job of making this a valuable, safe and fun experience for the 917 SFS."



Above: Senior Airman Warren Walker, 917th Security Forces Squadron fire team member, does 25 sit-ups, one step in the physical fitness portion of the 917 SFS Challenge Sept. 6. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant) Top photo: Staff Sgt. Chad Turner, 917 SFS fire team member, plots a point using a compass. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brad Grimm)

Medics lend helping hand

By Betty Stephens & Master Sgt. Michael Mazerat
Wing Public Affairs, 917th Medical Squadron

The Turtle Mountain Reservation had a hospital waiting room full of patients, late evening emergency room arrivals, and patients undergoing routine surgeries. This was part of this year's annual tour for a group of medical personnel from the 917th Medical Squadron.

In August, these medical personnel gave a helping hand to the Native American Health Service humanitarian mission at the Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Health Care Facility, Belcourt, N.D., —Turtle Mountain Reservation. The facility has 29 beds and serves more than 250 patients on most weekdays.

More 917 MDS personnel kicked up quite the storm halfway around the globe with the 18th Medical Group, Kadena Air Base, Japan, when only four days into their deployment, they were visited by Typhoon Etau.

This didn't stop them, though, as an inoperable radiology table, a dental lab's boiler and a broken sterilizer soon became their focus. So members of the 917 MDS examined their workload, rolled up their sleeves, and got right to work.

Turtle Mountain, N.D.

Dressed in scrubs, the group arrived early on their first day for a briefing on the hospital's policies and to complete an orientation class. Then it was off to work.

A small puncture here and there and then push, push, tear, pull and snip—after about 30 minutes, Maj. Veron Rhynes, 917 MDS surgeon, completed the laparoscopic surgery, and the patient was in recovery. Rhynes and his surgical team, side-by-side with the regular facility staff, completed five procedures.

"There was no way we would have done so much in such a short time without the helping hand of the 917th medical staff," said Linda Trottier, nurse in charge of the hospital surgical clinic. "They bring their knowledge and their skills to share. The extra help makes a big difference."

Lt. Col. Gary Avallone, 917 MDS optometrist and commander-in-charge, worked steadily throughout the day examining patients of all ages. "The young ones are having trouble with far and near vision, and the elderly vision problems are multiplied with such things as diabetes and cataracts," he said.

Aside from seeing more than 40 patients for routine surgical check ups and giving the best treatment he could offer, Rhynes

was concerned that the enlisted were able to treat patients and be upgraded in their specialty at the same time.

Kadena AB, Japan

After nearly nine months without the use of one of two x-ray tables and the capacity half of what it should be to perform patient x-rays, medical personnel at the 18 MDG were at the mercy of repairmen from mainland Tokyo, more than 2 ½ hours travel by plane, to come repair the unit. When Tech. Sgt. Robert Bowen, 917 MDS biomedical equipment repairman, was informed of the need, he immediately came to the rescue.

"Tech. Sgt. McNeill, one of our reservists, was working on a (x-ray) table," Bowen said, "and he called me to tell me the table top would not move at all. As it turns out, this table top had been broken for almost a year. So, I disassembled the table top, cleaned

all the bearings and wheels on it and straightened a bar on the side of it that was bent and got it working perfectly again."

Bowen didn't stop there. He went on to repair a broken boiler in the dental lab, completing over 20 work orders for the dental section alone. In addition, he trained airmen on how to better operate and maintain other hospital equipment.

"Due to the lack of rank, there were three young airmen working who didn't seem to be getting any training or instruction on how to repair or maintain equipment. So I took them around and trained them on a few

things that really break down a lot, sterilizers, dental x-ray equipment and things like that," Bowen said.

"I got a lot out of training them, and I think they did too," he said. "A couple of them have e-mailed me since then and told me what we talked about and went over has helped them a lot. It was a good experience for all of us."

"We thoroughly enjoyed having the enthusiastic professionals from the 917th MDS with us for a very challenging two weeks to include a typhoon passing through," said Col. Mark Presson, 18 MDG commander. "They received lots of good training, but in the best form of Mirror Force, the men and women of the 917th also provided the 18 MDG with exceptional support. For instance, idled medical equipment was fixed and our folks were trained on how to do it. Particularly outstanding was the desire to assist in any way possible. This tour demonstrated once again the wonderful contribution the reservists make to the total force."



Tech. Sgt. Stephen Taylor, 917th Medical Squadron medical services attendant, helps an emergency room nurse put a splint on a patient's arm. (Photo by Betty Stephens)



Left: Tech. Sgts. Kevin McNeill, 917th Medical Squadron radiology assistant, and Robert Bowen, 917 MDS biomedical equipment repairman, repair a radiology table. (Photo by Master Sgt. Michael Mazerat) Below: Lt. Col. Gary Avallone, 917 MDS optometrist, completes an eye examination on John Sharpfish Sr., in the eye clinic at Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Health Care Facility. (Photo by Betty Stephens)



Wing news...

It is time to update your decals

The end of the year is drawing near. Please check the base decals on all your vehicles. If they are dated "03," they will need to be replaced with new ones, and you can begin doing so now.

Contact Master Sgt. Lenka Isaac, 917th Wing Customer Service, at 456-9205 for more information.

Nominations accepted for JCOC

The Assistant Secretary of Defense is in the process of identifying influential citizens to participate in the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. Reservists may recommend individuals they feel meet the qualifications.

The JCOC is a multi-service orientation program for civilian public opinion leaders who have limited knowledge of national defense issues. Civic leaders are provided first-hand opportunities to meet senior defense officials and service leaders, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines to learn more about their missions.

Two JCOCs are planned for 2004. The first is scheduled for April 25-May 1, and selectees will gather in Hawaii for a tour of the Pacific Command U.S. military installations. The second is set for Sept. 19-24, and participants will meet at Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany, for a tour of U.S. military installations in Europe.

Nominees must be regionally or nationally influential citizens who neither possess special knowledge of the Department of Defense nor have existing strong relationships with senior members of the military. They must be prepared to absorb expenses totaling about \$2500 plus be willing to pay their transportation cost to and from the gathering sites. Military airlift will be provided within theater. Nominees do not have to reside in the immediate locale of the individual's unit.

Anyone interested in the nominating process may log onto the JCOC Web site: <http://www.dod.mil/jcoc/> for details.

Wanted: Hawgsmoke 2004 t-shirt design

All who fancy themselves artistic are encouraged to create a graphic for Hawgsmoke 2004, the A-10 worldwide gunnery competition, hosted by the 917th Wing, to be held in Alexandria, La., from Apr. 28-May 2.

On the front of the t-shirt will be a small Hawgsmoke patch (on the pocket); the contest will be to design a graphic for the back. This graphic should include things linked to Louisiana culture, the A-10, Warthogs, terminating bad guys or all of the above. The design may be created in any format that can be scanned by a computer. Deadline for all entries is Oct. 31. Winner gets three free Hawgsmoke 2004 t-shirts and the adulation of his/her Wing. Contact Lt. Col. Jim Macaulay, 47 FS, at 456-9133 for more information.

Aerospace Award nominations accepted now

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2004 Air Force Association Aerospace Awards: Theodore Von Karman Award, David C. Schilling Award, Gill Robb Wilson Award, Hoyt S. Vandenberg Award and Citation of Honor. All nominations must be based on contributions that are completed or occur during calendar year 2003.

Suspense date to submit nominations to 10th Air Force is Nov. 28. For information on what is required in nomination packages, contact Master Sgt. Mary Castro, 917th Wing Career Enhancement, at 456-9806.

Wing Blood Drive

Saturday, Oct. 4

Noon - 3 p.m.

Wing Headquarters Bldg. Parking Lot

Preparing for the ORI

We must be ready for an Operational Readiness Inspection in February 2005. Here is our initial cut on a plan to get us there. I am sure it will change several times, but you can at least use this for planning purposes.

-Brig. Gen. Jack Ihle
917th Wing commander

2003

October

Weigh-in, fitness walk, exercise preparation/table top, Gatorfest, bivouac, Wing Blood Drive

November

Employment Exercise, Employer Day

December

Wing Commander's Call

2004

January

Self-inspection

February

Wing mobility (personnel and cargo), Generation Exercise - No Fly, Health Services Inspection

March

Deployment/Regeneration Exercise (Generate prior to weekend.), Wing Commander's Call

April

Employment Exercise

May

Hawgsmoke

June

Wing Family Day, Wing Commander's Call

July

Self-inspection

August

Command and Control Exercise

September

10th Air Force Deployment Assistance Visit, Sept. 11-17 (mobility, generation, deployment, regeneration), Wing Commander's Call (one week Annual Tour after Unit Training Assembly)

October

Weigh-in, Fitness Walk, Ability To Survive and Operate review

November

10 AF Readiness Assistance Visit, Nov. 4-7 (Employment Exercise - begins Thursday or Friday)

December

Wing Commander's Call

2005

January

Mobility exercise (personnel only), self-inspection

February

Air Combat Command Inspector General ORI (two weeks of AT)

Putting one's ego in its proper place

**By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Don Eubanks
Wing Chaplains Office**

Since joining the Wing, I have noticed senior officers exemplifying one of the best attributes of good leadership, humility. Jesus said, "All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted."

One morning I noticed a pickup truck easing around our vacant parking lot. In it was a father and his 5-year-old son, Robert, who was standing up between his dad's legs holding on to the steering wheel. He had a huge smile and with great enthusiasm he began exclaiming that he was driving all by himself! But as it turns out, while he was holding the top of the wheel with pride and confidence, his father was holding the bottom.

God is like that. He works in the lives of each of us in ways that are deep, profound and often hidden. Some of us realize that and are very thankful. Others of us do not, and soon pride becomes arrogance and thus insensitivity.

What type of leader are you? Are you someone who realizes how blessed you are to serve this great country with **gifted people**? Are you a leader with a deep sense of humility and grace? Do you stop and tend to the needs of those who work for you?

Ego problems and signs of insecurity are seldom evident in leaders who have an awareness of the presence of God. You see, fundamentally, an ego problem is always at its deepest level a theological problem. The more the children of Israel wanted for themselves, the less they needed the leadership of God.

I am proud to serve under people who can hold the wheel, guiding the operation quietly, while allowing their troops to feel they too matter because they have their hand on the wheel.

Genuinely confident, leaders are gracious, humble and loving. They are people who focus on family, friends and others before themselves, leaders who pray for God's leadership as a personal core value. They lead a committed, dedicated, loyal team, the type for whom troops will gladly lay down their lives.

917th Wing Salutes

NEWCOMERS

307 RHS

Master Sgt. Robert Jackson, Atlanta, Texas

917 AMXS

Senior Airman Derek Grant, Overton, Texas

917 CES

Staff Sgt. Wade Janes, West Monroe, La.

Senior Airman Ryan McGuire, Shreveport, La.

917 CF

Senior Airman David Cooper, Bossier City, La.

917 MDS

Airman 1st Class Ledeidre Adams, Beaumont, Texas

Staff Sgt. Larry Fairchild, Dallas, Texas

917 MSF

Tech. Sgt. Carl Craig, Haynesville, La.

Senior Airman Michelle Miller, Bossier City, La.

917 OPS

Tech. Sgt. Andrew Branning, Shreveport, La.

917 SFS

Staff Sgt. Jason Hadley, Bossier City, La.

Staff Sgt. William Zeek, Camden, Ark.

917 WG

Staff Sgt. Mario Cabanero, Irving, Texas

Maj. Christina Collins, Titusville, N.J.

Senior Airman Jamie Garcia, Shreveport, La.

Lt. Col. Stephen Moore, South Lake, Texas

Staff Sgt. Crystal Rushing, Fort Worth, Texas

Airman 1st Class Richard Talley, Texarkana, Ark.

Michael Petrosch, 917 WG

Robin Sandifer, 917 OSF

Al Teauseau, 93 BS

To Chief Master Sergeant:

Clint Cates, 917 MXS

To Senior Master Sergeant:

John Clarke Jr., 717 AMXS

Michael Croxton, 917 WG

Thomas Melton, 917 MXS

To Master Sergeant:

Larry Buchanan, 307 RHS

Cecil Chase, 917 OSF

Wesley Cline, 917 CES

Ben Hudman, 917 AMXS

Eric Jaco, 917 MDS

Steven Lawrence, 717 AMXS

Floyd Williams, 717 AMXS

To Technical Sergeant:

Jeffrey Ernst, 917 AMXS

Anthony Evans, 917 MXS

Demetrius Wallace, 917 CES

To Staff Sergeant:

Joseph Hodges, 917 CES

Kevin Powell, 917 MXS

Eric Risner, 917 MXS

Monica Seavers, 93 BS

Jeremy Stokes, 917 AMXS

Kevin Tart, 917 AMXS

To Senior Airman:

Robby Allen, 307 RHS

Glenshade Jackson, 93 BS

Jessica Lee, 917 MOS

Brandon Norris, 917 CES

Shaun Piernas, 917 CF

Samantha Ramos, 917 MDS

Jeremiah Simpson, 917 AMXS

Satori Thompson, 917 MDS

Ashley Ticknor, 917 WG

To Airman 1st Class:

Whitaker Taylor, 917 AMXS

To Airman:

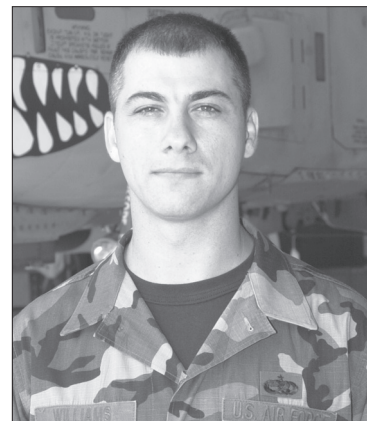
Sarah Houser, 917 MDS

Tarron Johnson, 917 MDS

Kathrine Shirer, 917 MDS

Jennifer Terry, 307 RHS

Jeremy Waller, 917 MXS



Tech. Sgt. Wray Williams
917th Maintenance Squadron
Wing NCO of the Quarter



Senior Airman Russell Morris
917th Maintenance Squadron
Airman of the Quarter

PROMOTIONS

To Lieutenant Colonel:

John Carmen, 93 BS

Karen Chin, 917 MDS

John Dorsey, 93 BS

Charles Eaton, 917 MDS

Ken Honaker, 917 MXS

James Marks, 47 FS

Harry May, 917 MSG

Timothy Long, 917 OSF

Bob Nordberg, 93 BS

2003 Fitness Walk scheduled for October



What: Three-mile fitness walk

When: Oct. 4, 2 p.m.

Where: Flight line side of the A-10 hangar

Fitness Walk requirements

Age (Years)*	Males (minutes)	Female (minutes)
17-29	40:54	43:52
30-34	42:04	45:10
35-39	43:15	46:29
40-44	44:25	47:44
45-49	45:34	48:55
50+	48:19	52:02

*Remember to bring appropriate clothing and footwear (shorts, t-shirt, athletic shoes).
No BDUs or combat boots are allowed.*

New physical fitness test details released

The new Air Force fitness test will include a 1.5-mile timed run, a muscular test of push-ups and crunches and a body composition test. New requirements begins Jan. 1, 2004, and are designed to measure the general health of airmen.

Participants can earn up to 50 points on the aerobic portion, 30 points on the body composition portion and 20 on the muscular fitness portion. Total points will divide airmen into one of four categories: 90 or greater is excellent; 75 to 89.9 is good; 70 to 74.9 is marginal; and less than 70 is poor. The test for body composition is still being finalized, but will measure total body fat.

Test scores will determine how often retesting is required. People scoring good or excellent will retest after a year, those scoring marginal will retest after six months, and those scoring poor will retest after 90 days.

For more information, see your first sergeant. See the following article found on the Air Force Link Web site: <http://www.af.mil/stories/story.asp?storyID=123005438>. *Editor's Note: As of now, the new physical fitness standards apply to the active-duty Air Force only. More details are to follow on the requirements for the Air Force Reserve.*

Voices: How do you feel the new physical fitness program, beginning in January 2004, will affect the Reserve?



Chief Master Sgt. Larry Payne
917th Maintenance Squadron

"If we begin now with moderate exercise and a change in diet, there is nothing we can't handle."



Senior Airman Malbon Heath
917th Security Forces Squadron

"I think the new program is a good idea. We need to be in good physical shape."



Staff Sgt. Renee Murphy
93rd Bomb Squadron

"I think there will be many complaints, but we will look better in uniform and be more ready and capable to do our mission."



Senior Airman Matthew Beam
917th Maintenance Squadron

"I think we (reservists) are going to have to get in shape."

917th Wing Training Schedule

October 4-5, 2003

Time	Event	Location
Saturday		
0630-0700	Sign-in	Assigned unit
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0700	Intro -- all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0700	Physical exam (flyers)	Base hospital (lobby)
0700-1400	Immunizations	Base hospital, 1st floor
0730	Detailed physical exam (non-flyers)	Base hospital (lobby)
0730	Routine physical exam	Base hospital, 2nd floor
0730-1000	Body fat measurement	Flight medicine
0730-1430	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800	Initial Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800 & 1300	Chem Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0900	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0900-1100	Exercise Evaluation Team member trng.	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 330
0930 & 1030	Family Support briefing	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 144
1000	Training Managers mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123B
1000	Unit Deployment Managers mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1000	First sergeants' mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1200-1400	Exercise Evaluation Team member trng.	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 330
1300	Flightline drivers training	Bldg. 6825, 3rd floor
1300	Commanders Support Staff trng.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1400	Wing Fitness Walk	Flight line, A-10 hangar

Sunday		
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit
0730	Information Management Training	Bldg. 4238, STARBASE
0730	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800	Unit Advisory Council mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0800	Tabletop exercise (for EET members)	47 FS auditorium
0800-1000	Dental Class 3 profile reviews	Base dental clinic
0800-1100	Immunizations	Base hospital
0800-1300	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
0800	Chem Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0800	Career advisor training	Bldg. 6815, T-Net
0830	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2
0945	EO First Duty Station Part 1	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1000-1030	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1030	Family Support briefing	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 144
1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor
1300	EO First Duty Station Part 2	Bldg. 4714, 3rd floor
1300	Flightline drivers refresher	Bldg. 6825, 3rd floor
1400	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1400	Historical Representative Mtg.	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 327
1400	MSG Top Three mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1500	717 AMXS Commander's Call	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1530	47 FS Commander's Call	47 FS auditorium

1550-1610 Sign-out 1550-- CES, MSS, WG 1600--MXG 1610--MXS

Know anyone who is looking for a recruiter?

Barksdale AFB, La.

Master Sgt. Joe Menna
Master Sgt. Don Copeland
1-800-241-4071

Monroe, La.

Master Sgt. Gary Johnson
318-323-1898

Shreveport, La.

Master Sgt. Ellen Shaheed
318-683-0331

Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Tech. Sgt. TeNeuss Land
501-987-7188

Texarkana, Texas

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Lucas
903-223-7030

Mesquite/Tyler, Texas

Senior Airman Kim Wilhite
972-681-6384/
903-534-8618

SERVICES

Military Personnel Flight

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, 456-9205

Saturday

7 - 11 a.m. Newcomers in-processing
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. All customer service functions

Sunday

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. All customer service functions

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All services

NOTE: Customer Service functions include in/out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DD93s, SGLI, vehicle decals, record reviews, etc.

Base Billeting

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
(reservations required)

Lodging

For information on official or space "A" lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

Chaplain

Bldg. 6803, Room 229, 456-9179

Friday - Sunday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Willis (985) 517-0955

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eubanks (479) 841-4641

Chaplain (Capt.) DeVaul (713) 502-1124

Red River Dining Hall (Bldg. 4631)

Breakfast 5:30 - 6:30 a.m.

Lunch -

717 AMXS - 11:45, 917 AMXS - 10:30/11:30,

CES - noon, MSS - 11:45, MXG, MOS - 11, MXS

- 11:15, OPS - 11, SFS - 12:15, WG - 11:30

NOTE: You must show ID card, newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.

Family Readiness (Bldg. 4713)

Saturday & Sunday 8-11 a.m.

Military drivers license

Military drivers license issue (main UTA), Bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Sat. & Sun., noon - 2 p.m.

Military Pay

Saturday and Sunday (main UTA) 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Gov. Travel Card Service

Bldg. 6803, Room 203, 456-9546

Monday - Friday, Main UTA 6 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Military clothing issue

Bldg. 6825, Room 218, 456-7177

Wednesday 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Saturday (Main UTA) 1-3 p.m.

Testing schedule

CDC/PME

Wed., 9 a.m., 1 p.m., Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123B

Sun., (Main UTA) 9 a.m. ONLY, Bldg. 6803, Rm.

123B - Course 00005A/00012G

Sun., (Main UTA) 12:30 p.m., Bldg. 4314, Rm. 309

Sun., (Alt. UTA) 1 p.m., Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123B

DANTES/CLEP

Thurs., 9 a.m., 1 p.m., Bldg. 6803, Rm. 152

Sun., (Main UTA) 12:30 p.m., Bldg. 4314, Rm. 309

AFOQT/AFCT

Sunday of UTA on a quarterly basis as scheduled
Call Wing Education and Training at 456-7496/
8066 for times or scheduling requirements.

Gas Mask/Chem Gear Issue

Sat. (main UTA) 7-9 a.m., Bldg. 6811(Mask), Bldg. 6822 (Chem Gear)

Wing participates in Patriots Day Celebration



Master Sgt. Joe Lepine, 917th Maintenance Squadron aircraft armament systems mechanic, shows Matthew Harper a 30mm bullet, the ammunition used in the Gatling Gun (pictured in the background) at Patriots Day, Sept. 5-6 at CenturyTel Center, Bossier City, La. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant)



Above: Displays set up by members of the 917 MXS and the 917th Wing Recruiting Office. Below: Tech. Sgt. Andy Beiger, 917 MXS munitions systems mechanic, talks with spectators about the A-10 Gatling Gun.



Congratulations to this year's Chief Cheryl T. Denson Memorial Foundation scholarship recipients!

Jena Richter,

daughter of Tech. Sgt. Quentin Richter,

917th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron B-52 aircraft mechanic

Senior Airman Chastity Finkley,

917th Logistics Readiness Squadron information management clerk

UTA Schedule

Main

Oct. 4-5
Nov. 1-2
Dec. 6-7
2004
Jan. 10-11
Feb. 7-8
March 6-7
April 3-4
May 1-2
June 5-6
July 10-11
Aug. 7-8
Sept. 11-12
Oct. 2-3
Nov. 6-7
Dec. 4-5

Alternate

Oct. 18-19
Nov. 15-16
No alternate
2004
Jan. 24-25
Feb. 21-22
March 20-21
April 17-18
May 15-16
June 12-13
July 17-18
Aug. 21-22
Sept. 18-19
Oct. 16-17
Nov. 20-21
No alternate

917th Wing
1000 Davis Ave. East
Barksdale AFB, LA 71110-2287

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